REMARKS

By the foregoing Amendment, Claim 6 is amended, and additional Claims 23-26 are presented. Entry of the Amendment, and favorable consideration thereof is earnestly requested.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, indicating that the disclosure does not provide sufficient disclosure to develop anti-tack rubber consistent with the scope of the claims for any but the disclosed chlorosulfonated polyethylene. Claim 6 has been amended to indicate that the anti-tack composition is chlorosulfonated polyethylene. The Examiner also rejects Claims 6 and 7 under the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, on the grounds that the language regarding suitable anti-tack and curing properties is indefinite. The Examiner is respectfully directed to lines 15 – 31 of page 10 and lines 1 – 10 of page 11 where the suitable curing and anti-tack properties are defined in the specification. As such, it is explicitly set forth how one is to determine what is and is not "suitable" anti-tack and curing properties. It should also be noted that newly presented Claims 23 and 24 do not include the objectionable language.

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Hergenrother et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,552,483 (hereinafter "Hergenrother"), Hunt, U.S. Patent No. 5,213,823 (hereinafter "Hunt") and/or Goodyear, G.B. Patent No. 1,040,271 (hereinafter "Goodyear"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to, and all claims require, a method to make an inflatable bladder for use with an apparatus for manufacturing pneumatic tires.

The method comprises the steps of mixing at least a first rubber and chlorosulfonated polyethylene to form a mixture, the mixture forming an anti-tack rubber, forming the anti-tack rubber into a first ply, and adhering the first ply to an elastomeric material, wherein said elastomeric material forms a second ply of the inflatable bladder. Applicant respectfully submits that none of the prior art, either alone or in combination, discloses at least the above-highlighted elements.

Hergenrother appears to disclose elastomeric structures having release characteristics wherein at least a portion of the surface of the structure comprises alternating block copolymers derived from polysiloxanes and copolymers of a compound diene and an aromatic vinyl compound. However, Hergenrother fails to disclose a bladder having an anti-tack rubber containing a first rubber and chlorosulfonated polyethylene, as required by Applicant's amended claims. Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion in Hergenrother of an anti-tack rubber containing a first rubber and chlorosulfonated polyethylene or the benefits of such a rubber. Hergenrother actually makes no reference to chlorosulfonated polyethylene in its disclosure. Rather, Hergenrother utilizes block copolymers derived from polysiloxanes and copolymers of a compound diene and an aromatic vinyl compound to achieve the desired release characteristics.

The Hunt reference appears to disclose a bladder having improved release properties in which at least the outside surface of the bladder is made of a polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and rubber blend providing the surface the desired release characteristics. However, like Hergenrother, Hunt fails to disclose a bladder having an anti-tack rubber containing a first rubber and chlorosulfonated polyethylene, as required by Applicant's amended claims. Additionally, Hunt does not make any reference to a blend of a first rubber and chlorosulfonated

polyethylene nor does Hunt teach or suggest the use of such a blend for improved anti-tack properties. Rather, Hunt relies on a rubber and PVC blend to achieve its release properties.

Goodyear appears to disclose another composition for a bladder having improved release characteristics. As with the other two references, Goodyear does not disclose a bladder having an anti-tack rubber containing a first rubber and chlorosulfonated polyethylene, as required by Applicant's amended claims. Applicant respectfully submits that the only reference to chlorosulfonated polyethylene in Goodyear is to a bladder constructed of hypalon (chlorosulfonated polyethylene), however the hypalon is not blended with any other rubbers, as in Applicant's claimed invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references alone or in combination anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention. As indicated in the above arguments, there is no suggestion or teaching to mix at least a first rubber and chlorosulfonated polyethylene to form an anti-tack rubber as is required by all claims of the present invention. At most, the prior art even if combined would yield a bladder with a composition of block copolymers derived from polysiloxanes and copolymers of a compound diene and an aromatic vinyl compound and PVC or a bladder constructed of solely chlorosulfonated polyethylene, neither of which is Applicants' claimed invention.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims, namely Claims 6, 7 and 23-26, are patentable over the references of record, and earnestly solicits allowance of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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